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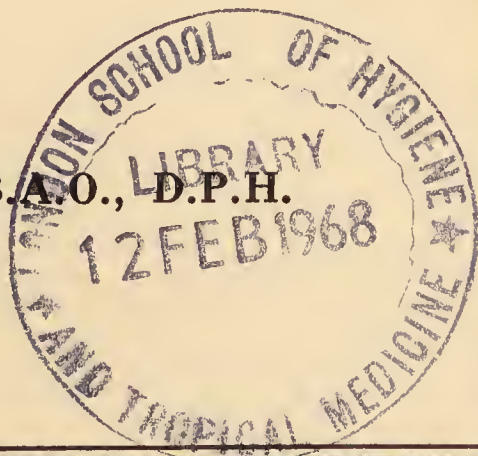
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.



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Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

P. A. CROWLEY, M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Tunbridge Wells:
C. BALDWIN, LTD. NEWTON ROAD

2450/57

GREENFIELD, B.A.

† Miss B. L. DE MAUGER, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M.

CLERICAL STAFF :

Chief Clerk :

Mrs. D. E. TEBBIT.

Second Clerk :

Miss G. M. MOORE.

Public Health Inspector's Clerk:

D. A. BARMBY.

Rodent Operator :

E. J. SMITHERMAN.

Public Analyst :

H. E. MONK, B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.Inst.S.P.A., A.M.Inst.W.E.

Deputy Public Analyst:

R. C. SPALDING, M.A., F.R.I.C.

* County Staff employed locally

† Under Control of Regional Hospital Board

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BOROUGH OF ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Royal Tunbridge Wells.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1956.

The population at mid-year 1956 as estimated by the Registrar-General was 38,900. This is slightly more than in the previous year.

The vital statistics once again show a further decrease in the number of births in the Borough. The number of births registered was 436 (241 males and 195 females). The birth rate was 11.2 compared with 11.9 in 1955, and 15.7 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths recorded was 667 (287 males and 380 females) compared with 586 in 1955. The number of deaths per 1,000 population was 17.1. The standardised death rate was 11.1 which compared favourably with the death rate for England and Wales which was 11.7.

Deaths from lung cancer numbered 22. This total, as will be seen in Table 2 of the Report, is the highest yet recorded since the Registrar-General introduced separate figures for deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus in 1950.

Deaths of infants under one year numbered 18, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 41.3 per 1,000 live births, compared with a rate of 23.8 for England and Wales. A table showing the causes of death is given later in the Report. Of the total number of deaths it will be seen that 15 were neo-natal, i.e.

occurred during the first month of life, and of these, 12 were due to prematurity and/or congenital defects.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year was 132 compared with 351 cases the previous year.

There were 13 cases of Measles and 54 cases of Whooping Cough. No deaths were recorded.

Ten cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, all being of a very mild type.

The number of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) cases was five, of which two were paralytic and three non-paralytic. During the year vaccination against this disease was carried out for the first time in this country, the County Health Department being responsible for the local arrangements. Steady progress has been made during the last ten years in our knowledge of the causative virus. During the coming years vaccination against Poliomyelitis may well prove to be as effective in eliminating the disease as Immunisation has been in the case of Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year and it is satisfactory to note that the last case of Diphtheria notified in the Borough was in 1949.

Cases of Typhoid are fortunately rare nowadays but during the year five cases were notified. Two of the five cases occurred in adults who had been on holiday on the Continent and on their return to this country early symptoms of the disease had developed. The three other cases were notified from a local hospital, the primary case being a young child who infected two ward contacts. Despite exhaustive enquiries the source of the child's infection was not, however, determined.

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1956 Sanitary Inspectors were designated "Public Health Inspectors". This overdue change of designation reflects the ever changing and ever

increasing scope of the duties carried out by these valuable members of the staff.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the summary of statistics shown in the tables on page 19 of this Report, which give the number of persons vaccinated against Smallpox and the number of children immunised against Diphtheria.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Council, particularly the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and to the Chief Officers for their valuable co-operation, also to my own staff for their loyal assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. CROWLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

1 (a)—Summary of Statistics.

1 (a)—(i) GENERAL.

Area : 6,034 acres.

Population : 38,900 (R.G.'s Estimate 1956). 38,397 (R.G.'s Census figure 1951).

Density of population, *i.e.* number of persons per acre : 6.4.

Number of inhabited houses : 12,300.

Rateable value, 1956 : £720,762.

Sum produced by a penny rate : £2,043.

Mean Annual Temperature : 47.6° F.

Hours of Bright Sunshine, 1956 : 1,509 hours.

Total Rainfall, 1956 : 30.72 inches.

1 (a)—(ii) BIRTHS.

<i>Live Births (Registered):</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate ...	419	231	188
Illegitimate ...	17	10	7
	<hr/> 436 <hr/> <hr/>		

Corrected Birth Rate : 12.3.

Live Birthrate per 1,000 population : 11.2.

Corresponding rate for 1955 : 11.9.

Live Birthrate for England and Wales : 15.7.

1 (a)—(iii) <i>Stillbirths:</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate ...	13	5	8
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
	<hr/> 14 <hr/> <hr/>		

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 births : 32.1.

Rate per 1,000 population : 0.36.

Stillbirth Rate for England and Wales : 23.0.

1 (a)—(iv) DEATHS.

Males : 287. Females : 380. Total : 667.

Standardised Death Rate : 11.1.

Crude death rate per thousand of population : 17.14.

Corresponding rate for 1955 : 15.1.

Death rate for England and Wales : 11.7.

1 (a)—(v) Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality per 1,000 total registered births	...	...	...	...	0.0

1 (a)—(vi) INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

			<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	...	...	17	10	7
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live
births : 41.3.

Rate for England and Wales : 23.8.

1 (a)—(vii) Total number of deaths from :—

				1955	1956
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	—
Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	93	125

1. Causes of death in children under one year.

	Under 24 hours	1 day to 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 m'nths	3-6 m'nths	6-9 m'nths	9-12 m'nths	TOTAL
Prematurity & Congenital Malforma- tions, etc. ...	4	7	1	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	13
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis ...	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ...	5	9	1	—	—	15	2	1	—	—	18

2. Deaths from Lung Cancer during the past six years.

Year.	20—34 years.		35—44 years.		45—64 years.		65—74 years.		75 years and over		TOTAL.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1950 ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	2
1951 ...	—	—	—	—	8	—	4	1	—	1	12	2
1952 ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	1	3	3	10	5
1953 ...	—	—	2	—	3	1	5	—	3	—	13	1
1954 ...	—	—	2	—	11	—	—	1	6	—	19	1
1955 ...	—	—	1	—	3	—	3	1	4	—	11	1
1956 ...	—	—	—	—	6	3	9	3	1	—	16	6
	—	—	5	—	36	5	25	9	17	4	83	18

3. Table showing Summary of Causes of Death during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

No.	Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	1	6
2.	Tuberculosis, Other	1	—	1
3.	Syphilitic Disease	3	1	4
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2
10.	Malignant Neoplasm Stomach ...	7	5	12
11.	Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	16	6	22
12.	Malignant Neoplasm Breast	—	10	10
13.	Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	4	4
14.	Other Malignant Lymphatic Neoplasms	28	49	77
15.	Leukæmia Aleukæmia	1	—	1
16.	Diabetes	2	2	4
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	19	51	70
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	60	35	95
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	5	9	14
20.	Other Heart Disease	46	75	121
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	12	31	43
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	12	13	25
24.	Bronchitis	15	13	28
25.	Other Diseases of respiratory system ...	1	4	5
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	6	5	11
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	5
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	7	—	7
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	2	1	3
32.	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	22	41	63
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
34.	All other accidents	7	18	25
35.	Suicide	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and Operation of War ...	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		287	380	667

4. Table showing the average number of deaths at several ages for consecutive periods of five years.

	1901 to 1905	1906 to 1910	1911 to 1915	1916 to 1920	1921 to 1925	1926 to 1930	1931 to 1935	1936 to 1940	1941 to 1945	1946 to 1950	1951 to 1955	1956
Deaths at under 1 year	57	46	40	36	23	22	18	17	21	22	10	18
„ 1 and under 2 }	29	23	16	{ 6	3	5	3	4	3	1	1	1
„ 2 „ „ 5 }				{ 9	5	5	4	3	3	1	2	2
„ 5 „ „ 15 }	11	10	16	15	6	7	5	4	5	3	2	1
„ 15 „ „ 25 }	13	14	12	21	10	10	7	7	4	3	3	2
„ 25 „ „ 45 }	141	141	145	{ 47	36	37	30	30	25	20	15	12
„ 45 „ „ 65 }				{ 107	104	118	119	115	107	101	93	103
„ 65 and upwards	178	205	234	245	276	307	342	368	420	470	473	528

5. Table showing number of deaths from certain causes.

Five-yearly Period.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis		Infectious Diseases.	Violence.	Influenza.
		Pul- monary.	Non-Pul- monary.			
1901-1905	226	167	61	104	45	67
1906-1910	251	154	48	90	35	87
1911-1915	260	133	46	110	49	60
1916-1920	310	150	62	59	50	178
1921-1925	328	111	32	27	65	64
1926-1930	384	106	21	30	59	91
1931-1935	383	65	20	15	57	52
1936-1940	417	60	14	21	81	55
1941-1945	502	66	16	13	65	61
1946-1950	496	44	9	9	52	25
1951-1955	500	18	2	7	116	40
1956	125	6	1	1	29	2

Table 6. Ages, etc., of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Disease	Total Cases (all ages)	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 and over	Age Un-known	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	10	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	5	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	54	3	5	8	7	1	23	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	13	—	2	1	2	—	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis:															
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis:															
Paralytic ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Non-Paralytic ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	5	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis:															
Pulmonary ...	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	7	1	3	—	10	6
Meninges and C.N.S. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	3	1
TOTALS ...	132	5	7	10	9	7	39	3	19	14	10	9	—	31	9

Table 7. Seasonal Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	1	1	2	10
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	9
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ...	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	10	7	5	12	5	11	4	54
Measles ...	1	—	—	—	3	3	—	3	1	—	2	—	13
Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis :													
Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Non-Paralytic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis :													
Infective ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	5
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary ...	—	2	2	—	1	—	2	1	3	2	1	2	16
Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other ...	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	5
	2	8	5	4	9	16	11	12	21	16	18	10	132

Table 8. Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pul.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45...	1	2	—	—	1	—	1	—
45—55...	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55—65...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Over 65 ...	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
	10	6	2	3	5	1	1	—

Table 9. Tuberculosis Register.

	1st Quarter.			2nd Quarter.			3rd Quarter.			4th Quarter.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis :</i>												
Number of cases on register	157	138	295	158	140	298	160	141	301	162	141	303
New notifications ...	1	3	4	1	—	1	5	1	6	3	2	5
Cases removed and subsequently restored	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to register (inward transfers) ...	2	1	3	3	3	6	—	—	—	3	1	4
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	2	2	4	2	2	4	3	1	4	3	3	6
Cases remaining on register	158	140	298	160	141	301	162	141	303	165	141	306
<i>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:</i>												
Number of cases on register	31	39	70	32	38	70	33	39	72	32	40	72
New notifications ...	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	1
Cases removed and subsequently restored	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other cases added to Register (inward transfers)	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases removed (removed, recovered, died) ...	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	3
Cases remaining on register	32	38	70	33	39	72	32	40	72	31	39	70

Table 10. Tuberculosis—Summary of Cases.

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pul.	Total.
	Male.		Female.		
Cases on Register at beginning of year...	157	31	138	39	365
Cases added ...	18	2	11	4	35
Cases removed	10	2	8	4	24
Cases Remaining ...	165	31	141	39	376

Table 11. Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis during the past 25 years.

Year.	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY		Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.		Total.
	No. of cases notified.	Deaths.	No. of cases notified.	Deaths.		Pul-mon-ary.	Non-Pul-monary.	
1956	21	6	5	1	7	0.15	0.03	0.18
1955	21	3	2	—	3	0.08	0.00	0.08
1954	8	2	6	—	2	0.05	0.00	0.05
1953	17	3	2	1	5	0.10	0.03	0.13
1952	24	5	8	1	6	0.13	0.03	0.16
1951	17	5	7	1	6	0.13	0.03	0.16
1950	18	9	4	—	9	0.23	0.00	0.23
1949	27	7	4	—	7	0.18	0.00	0.18
1948	30	9	5	—	9	0.23	0.00	0.23
1947	37	10	3	3	13	0.26	0.08	0.34
1946	27	7	3	1	8	0.19	0.03	0.22
1945	22	16	11	1	17	0.45	0.03	0.48
1944	25	11	5	3	14	0.31	0.08	0.39
1943	17	10	7	2	12	0.27	0.06	0.33
1942	25	13	12	5	18	0.35	0.13	0.48
1941	35	12	11	2	14	0.32	0.05	0.37
1940	22	14	6	—	14	0.37	0.00	0.37
1939	23	10	10	3	13	0.28	0.08	0.36
1938	20	11	8	3	14	0.30	0.08	0.38
1937	13	12	8	4	16	0.33	0.11	0.44
1936	13	14	12	3	17	0.39	0.08	0.47
1935	23	12	8	5	17	0.34	0.14	0.48
1934	21	12	13	4	16	0.34	0.11	0.45
1933	27	14	14	4	18	0.41	0.12	0.53
1932	32	12	14	3	15	0.34	0.09	0.43

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1942).

Year of Birth.	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)																
1952-1956	13	14	18	25	153	392	354	266	205	374	345	351	315	252	29	3106
1951 or earlier	196	200	201	237	143	43	75	249	185	11	—	—	—	—	—	1540

Number of children who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1956:—

Year of Birth.	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Inoculations ...	29	235	62	10	7	8	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	356
Re-inforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	8	95	35	7	9	4	4	—	—	2	—	164

Vaccinations.

Number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1956:—

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Be-fore 1942	Total
Prim-ary Vac-cina-tions	162	116	4	2	4	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	303
Re-Vac-cina-tions	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	2	1	4	2	—	60	75

NURSING HOMES.

	Number of Homes	Number of Beds provided for :		
		Maternity	Others	Total
(a) Homes first registered during year	1	—	6	6
(b) Homes on the register at the end of the year	17	3	225	228
Number of visits of inspection made during year ...	—	—	—	21

**LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE BOROUGH provided
by the Kent County Council.**

Ambulance Facilities.

The Kent County Council Ambulance Service served the needs of the town from their station in Monson Road.

Domestic Help Service.

The Area Organiser's office is at 41, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Nursing in the Home.

Nursing in the Home is undertaken by Home Nurses employed by the Kent County Council. District Midwives also employed by the County Council undertake the majority of the domiciliary midwifery cases in the Borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following table gives details of the various treatment centres and clinics operated by the Kent County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.	SESSIONS.	
	Days.	Times.
Child Welfare Centres:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Tuesday and Thursday	2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Congregational Church Hall, Rusthall.	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
St. Luke's Church Hall, 36, Silverdale Road.	Wednesday	2.30 p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	1st, 3rd and 5th Friday	2 p.m.—4 p.m.
Mothercraft & Relaxation Classes:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	2nd and 4th Friday	2.30—3.30 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation & Vaccination Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday	2 p.m.—3 p.m.
School Health Service:— Minor Ailment Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday, Wednesday and Saturday	9 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Monday	9 a.m.
Orthopædic Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesday	9 a.m.
Speech Therapy Clinic:— 3, Mount Ephraim Road	Tuesday	10 a.m.
Dental Clinic:— 9-10, Calverley Terrace, Crescent Road.	Daily	9.30 a.m.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Clinics.	Days.	Times.
Chest Clinic :— Out-Patient Department, Kent & Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.	Friday	9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (for children only). 10.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Clinic for treatment of Venereal Diseases :— Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells	Wednesday (Females) Wednesday (Males)	2.0 to 4.0 p.m. 4.0 to 6.0 p.m.

The following are hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Regional Hospital Board which provide services for the town:

Pembury Hospital, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells.

The Homœopathic Hospital, Church Road, Tunbridge Wells.

The Kent and Sussex Hospital, Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells.

The Tunbridge Wells and District Maternity Home, Calverley Park Gardens, Tunbridge Wells.

The Tunbridge Wells and District Isolation Hospital, Benhall Mill Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Scabies.

A Cleansing Station is provided at the Central Clinic, 9/10, Calverley Terrace, Tunbridge Wells. There were seven cases of scabies during the year under review.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended).

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

Public Health Bacteriology.

All public health bacteriology for the Borough is carried out either by the Laboratory at the Kent and Sussex Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, or the Public Health Laboratory Service at their laboratory, formerly at County Hall, Maidstone, but since September, 1956, at Preston Hall, British Legion Village, Maidstone. During the year the following specimens were sent for examination:—

Specimen.	No.	Results:	
		Positive.	Negative.
Nose and Throat Swabs	33	7	26
Faeces	98	20	78
Urine	31	1	30
Blood	7	1	6
Sputum	6	3	3
Rectal Swab	1	1	—
Vaginal Swab	1	—	1
Raw Meat	1	—	1
TOTAL	178	33	145

Staff Medical Examinations.

During the year the following medical examinations for superannuation purposes were carried out:—

Tunbridge Wells Borough	15
Other authorities	3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during 1956.

Water Supply.

Regular monthly samples were taken of the public water supply. The drinking water in the Borough was satisfactory with regard to both quality and quantity throughout the year.

The Pantiles Chalybeate Spring also receives the same careful supervision.

There now remain only ten houses in rural parts not on main supply.

Swimming Bath.

All the 21 samples of bath water taken were found to be satisfactory. The water is receiving adequate treatment and chlorination.

Sewage and Refuse Disposal.

The town's sewage is treated in two modern treatment plants. There are, in addition, two small septic tank plants controlled by the Council treating the effluents from properties on the outskirts of the Borough. Approximately 200 houses drain to cesspools or septic tank plants. These cesspools are emptied eight times a year free of charge.

A group of houses in the Cornford Lane area still await main drainage. Owing to their remote situation their connection to a main sewer would be very costly. It is hoped that the difficulty will be overcome in the foreseeable future.

It was necessary for the Department to deal with ten public sewers as defined by Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year. In six instances the obstruction was removed by rodding and in four instances the ground had to be excavated and the sum of £53. 0s. 8d. was expended on labour and materials. The money expended is recoverable from the owners of the properties served by the sewers.

A total of 10,461 tons of refuse from 15,077 dustbins was collected during the year in weekly collections.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping outside the Borough.

Milk and Ice Cream.

The law now requires all milk which is not from Tuberculin Tested cows to be pasteurised. Two of the four dairies in

the Borough are licensed to pasteurise milk. Ninety-five samples of milk were taken to test the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The bulk of the milk passing into the dairies is now "Tuberculin Tested" and in a very short period it will be compulsory for all cattle in the south-east of England to have passed the Tuberculin Test.

There are four manufacturers of ice cream remaining on the register and the bulk of the ice cream sold is pre-packed by large concerns. Thirty-five samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination.

Clean Food.

Regular inspections were made of all types of food premises. Fines totalling £60 were inflicted for failing to comply with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations in a bake-house.

Several talks were given on the Food Hygiene Regulations to various bodies including representatives of the food trade.

Rodent Control.

One Rodent Operator is still employed in the destruction of rats and mice. No serious infestations were found during the year but the operator was fully employed in the treatment of single colonies above ground and in sewer treatments.

It is at times hard to convince the public that the Council is not responsible for the destruction of wild rabbits (now back in the Borough), squirrels, foxes and wasp nests.

Although we cannot accept any responsibility we do try to give help in various ways to deal with these pests.

Housing.

During the year the Council's programme for the eradication of unfit houses made very satisfactory progress. The Crescent Road Clearance Area was the subject of a Ministry

hearing in January. The Council received confirmation of the Order in September. In July a Compulsory Purchase Order was made on 42 houses and a store in the North Street area and at the same time a Clearance Order was made on four cottages in the same district. A Ministry Inquiry to hear objections was held in the Town Hall in November, 1956.

In addition to the houses in the Clearance Areas action was taken on other unfit houses in the clearance programme. During the year a number of houses became empty following the rehousing of the families by the Council and undertakings were received from the owners of the houses not to re-let them. The houses will be demolished when the tenants of the adjoining properties have been rehoused.

Altogether 21 families were rehoused from unfit houses during the year. Sixty-four houses in the programme were empty on 31st December, 1956.

Three unfit basements were closed during the year the tenants being rehoused by the Corporation.

Three hundred and forty-eight houses had defects remedied following informal action by the Department. In addition 43 Statutory Notices were served under various provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts. Thirty-nine houses were repaired by the owners after statutory action and in four instances the repairs were carried out by the Council in default of the owners.

It is hoped that the proposed legislation will lead to the cottage properties receiving substantial repairs, thus reducing the time spent by the Department on housing inspections.

Several houses let in lodgings were improved during the year following agreement with the owners and in one instance statutory action was taken to improve conditions at a house let off as furnished rooms. This house has been a source of trouble for many years and when the work required is completed the conditions of the many families at the premises will be greatly improved.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The Public Slaughterhouse at Holly Farm, Hawkenbury, has supplied a need for the butchers in the town and for those in the surrounding districts. The Health Committee have been able to operate the premises without a charge on the rates. The demand on the premises varies considerably according to the seasons of the year. Trade in the spring and early summer is usually very quiet, followed by a gradual rise to a peak around Christmas.

In the autumn there were some outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease in the area. As a result of these outbreaks bacon pigs reared in the district which normally would have gone for slaughter to the bacon factories were diverted to Holly Farm Slaughterhouse. This meant increased trade, but had one of the outbreaks been a few hundred yards nearer the slaughterhouse it would have been closed for at least two weeks.

In the Annual Report of 1955 comment was made of the proposals of the Committee appointed to decide the siting of slaughterhouses. The Committee suggested that Tunbridge Wells should be the slaughtering centre for quite a considerable area. However, subsequent official policy does not appear to accept the Committee's proposals.

Since the controls ended in 1954 some 4,000 old slaughterhouses have been brought back into use in the country. How many of these comply with modern standards? Holly Farm Slaughterhouse is of reasonable size, isolated and kept in a satisfactory condition as far as its lay-out will allow, but it lacks many modern refinements such as refrigeration. It would be unwise to contemplate the provision of modern premises unless some assurance is given that slaughtering in the unsatisfactory slaughterhouses will cease.

A very high quality of animal goes through the premises—the small percentage of meat found to be unfit, as shown in the Table of Carcases Inspected, gives proof of this.

The private slaughterhouse in the Borough has been maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

* * *

In recent years there have been many changes in the law affecting Public Health Inspectors and this trend continued in 1956. These changes in the law placed added responsibilities on the Department and an increasing amount of time had to be spent on enforcing the new requirements. The Department has responded to the challenge and has carried out the increased duties with undiminished enthusiasm.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Health Committee and yourself for another fruitful year.

T. S. ELLIS,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives a general summary of the visits and work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year 1956 other than in respect of Food Premises:—

Visits to Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
„ „ Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
„ „ Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
„ „ Insects and Pests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
„ „ Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
„ „ Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ Rats and/or Mice Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
„ „ Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
„ „ Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148
Other Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	438
Interviews respecting properties	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	513
Disinfections carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Smoke test to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Water test to drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Informal notices served <i>re</i> housing defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	348
Formal notices served <i>re</i> houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ complied with by Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
„ „ „ „ „ Local Authority in default	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN OF DRINKING WATER.

					Satisfactory.	Not up to factory standard.
1.	Corporation Supply.					
	(a) PEMBURY WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples ... ..	...	...	...	13	0
	(b) SAINTS' HILL WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples ... ..	...	...	...	12	0
	(c) TANGIER WATERWORKS (Chlorinated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples ... ..	...	...	...	11	0
	TANGIER WATERWORKS (UNTREATED)—					
	Bacteriological Samples ... ..	...	...	...	1	0
2.	Pantiles Chalybeate Spring.					
	Bacteriological Samples ... ..	...	...	...	27	2
3.	Private Supplies (Untreated)—					
	Bacteriological Samples ... ..	...	...	...	1	1

TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN OF SWIMMING BATH WATER.

Corporation Swimming Bath, Monson Road.					Passed.	Failed.
Bacteriological Samples	...	...	...	...	19	0
Chemical Samples	...	...	...	...	2	0

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		Number
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	435
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,423
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	63
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose	349
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	342
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	348
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—		
(a)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	8
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	1
(b)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	32
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	31
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	3
(c)	<i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11	9
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	2
(d)	<i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</i>	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	66	24	5	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority... ..	202	73	14	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	11	28	5	—
TOTAL	279	125	24	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding ... (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	4	4	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	20	17	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	23	—	5	—

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110. (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	4	—	—	—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.(a) **Number of food premises in the Borough** 421*Type of Business:*

Bakehouses and bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	32
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	29
Cafés and restaurants	...	...	...	...	43
Dairies	...	...	...	...	4
Fish shops and fish fryers	...	...	...	...	15
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	38
Grocers and mixed	...	...	...	...	104
Ice Cream Factory	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	61
Market (covered)	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Sweet and cake shops	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous food premises	...	...	...	...	65

The nature of the business has been classified according to the principal trade as two or more trades are often carried on from the same premises.

Number of food premises registered under :

(i) *Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:*

(a) Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) Manufacturers of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	34
(c) Manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	122
(ii) <i>Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:</i>						
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	4

Number of inspections of food premises :

(i) Registered premises:

(a) Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	14
(b) Manufacturers of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	129
(c) Manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	84
(d) Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	81

(ii) Other premises:

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Cafés and restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	161
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	737
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	441

(b) Milk Supply :—

Licences in force at the end of the year :—

Pasteurisers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealers' Licences : Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Supplementary Licences : Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of registered dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ shops (not dairies) selling bottled milks	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ distributors from other districts selling milk in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Samples taken :					Taken.	Unsatisfactory.	
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	46	1	
T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk	...	...	...	...	47	1	
Raw Milk	...	...	...	...	2	1	

(c) Ice Cream:—

Number of Manufacturers of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	4
Number of other premises registered for the sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	118
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	35
The 35 samples were graded as follows :	Grade 1	...	17		
	Grade 2	...	8		
	Grade 3	...	7		
	Grade 4	...	3		

(d) Meat and other Foods:—

(i) Details of food found to be unfit for human consumption in the two slaughterhouses in the Borough:—

	Weight.				including	Tubercular Weight.			
	T.	C.	Qts.	Lbs.		T.	C.	Qts.	Lbs.
Beef	1	1	2	1		15	2	11	
„ offals	2	4	3	17	„	16	1	21	
Pork		7	3	17	„	2	3	15	
„ offals		3	1	17	„			8	
Veal				10					
„ offals				8	„			1	
Mutton				10					
„ offals		2	1	16					
Total weight	4	0	1	12					

Unsound meat is coloured with vegetable dye and converted into products not for human consumption.

(ii) Details of food found to be unfit for human consumption in Retail and Wholesale Food Premises:—

<i>Item of Food.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>			
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Apricots (canned)			2	15½
Bacon			2	11
Beverages				2½
Cheese			1	11¾
Chocolate Rolls				3½
Cocoanut ... ..	...			5
Cream (canned)				7
Creamed Rice (canned)				18
Eggs (foreign) (canned)				16
Fish		3	3	1
Fish (canned)			2	18
Fish (cured)			3	0
Fruit (canned)		4	1	26¾
Fruit (dried)				5½
Fruit Juice				17½
Glaze Cherries				9
Golden Syrup				2
Ground Almonds				1
Herrings (fresh)		1	0	0
Honey				2½
Jam				21
Marmalade				17½
Meat (canned)		16	2	26
Meat (cooked)				10
Meat and Offal (home-killed)		2	1	1
Meat and Offal (imported)		19	1	18
Meat and Vegetable (canned)				4
Milk (canned)		1	2	21
Onions (pickled)			2	16
Pastes and Spreads				4½
Puddings and Pie Fillings			1	2¾
Puree (canned)		2	3	27¾
Sausages and Sausagemeat			1	1
Shellfish			3	6
Shellfish (canned)				3
Soups			2	27
Suet			1	10½
Vegetables (canned)		6	2	7
Miscellaneous foodstuffs				5
TOTAL WEIGHT	3	6	2	10½

Unsound tinned foods, etc., are buried at a great depth in the Corporation tip under close supervision.

**TABLE OF CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND FOUND UNFIT IN
WHOLE OR PART**

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed	1,431	226	1,090	2,835	3,292	—
Number inspected ...	1,431	226	1,090	2,835	3,292	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>						
Whole carcases found unfit	—	2	1	—	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was found unfit	328	66	8	79	89	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	22.92%	30.09%	0.83%	2.79%	2.86%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>						
Whole carcases found unfit	1	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was found unfit	58	19	2	—	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4.12%	8.85%	0.18%	—	0.82%	—
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was found unfit	4	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally unfit	—	—	—	—	—	—

**WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS
ACT, 1949.**

1. Surface Treatment.	Type of Property.			Total.
	Local Authority.	Private Dwellings.	Business Premises.	
Number of properties inspected as a result of:—				
(a) Notification	7	189	49	245
(b) Survey under the Act	31	414	0	445
Number of complaints where infestation was not confirmed	1	29	6	36
Number of properties which were found to be infested by:—				
(a) Rats (major) ...	3	2	2	7
„ (minor) ...	3	112	11	126
(b) Mice (major) ...	—	—	—	—
„ (minor) ...	1	59	30	90
Number of infested properties treated by Rodent Operator	7	172	43	222
Total treatments carried out including retreatments ...	12	201	54	267

2. Sewer Treatment.

No. of manholes test-baited during the year	...	...	...	...	128
„ „ „ poison-baited (1st quarter)	...	...	...	...	74
„ „ „ „ „ (2nd „ )	...	...	...	...	96
„ „ „ „ „ (3rd „ )	...	...	...	...	92
„ „ „ „ „ (4th „ )	...	...	...	...	91

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

No serious adulterations were found during the year. The Public Analyst reported one sample of milk adulterated and six various milks and other foods inferior.

The sample of milk adulterated had only 2.6% of milk fat instead of the statutory 3.0%. Samples of the whole of the farmer's consignment to the dairy were taken and two churns of milk were found to be slightly low in fat and reported by the Analyst as inferior. The facts were reported to the Health Committee and the farmer was cautioned.

One of the informal samples consisted of a sample of imported apples. The outer portion of the apple had become contaminated with an excessive amount of lead arsenic due to spraying of the crops. The wholesaler returned the apples to the importers who arranged for the treatment of the apples.

**SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1956 UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT,
1955.**

Nature of Sample.	Examined.			Adulterated.		
	Formal.	Informal.	Total.	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Apples	—	1	1	—	1	1
Butter	—	1	1	—	—	—
Camphorated Oil ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chalybeate Spring Water with Glucose ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cheese	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate Biscuits ...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Chocolate Drops ...	—	1	1	—	1	1
Codeine Tablets ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream	—	3	3	—	—	—
Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Halibut Liver Oil Cap- sules	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jam	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	1	—	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Marzipan	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk	16	26	42	2	1	3
Milk (Channel Island)	4	4	8	—	—	—
Milk (Tinned)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mincemeat	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orange Squash	—	1	1	—	—	—
Parrish's Chemical Food	—	1	1	—	—	—
Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Prunes	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pudding (Christmas) ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pudding Mixture	—	1	1	—	1	1
Sago	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sausages (beef)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sausages (pork)	—	7	7	—	—	—
Sherry (British)	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whisky	—	2	2	—	—	—
Zinc Ointment	—	1	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	20	70	90	2	5	7

WEATHER INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR 1956.

Tunbridge Wells has a Municipal Meteorological Station which is an official Auxiliary Station of the Meteorological Office. Observations are taken daily at 9.0 a.m. G.M.T. and these readings are forwarded monthly to the Meteorological Office. Certain readings are also taken at 6.0 p.m. clock time and, being an inland health resort, a brief summary of observations is forwarded each evening by telegram or telephone. In addition to recording the readings of the various instruments and other data at set times note is taken of weather conditions and any phenomena throughout the day.

No change has taken place in the siting of the instruments which are as follows:—

Calverley Grounds: Maximum, minimum, wet, dry, earth
1 ft., earth 4 ft., and grass minimum
thermometers; the rain gauge.

Town Hall: Barometer ("Fortin" type).

"Reliance House,"

Mount Ephraim: Sunshine recorder.

The building upon which the sunshine recorder is placed is the best vantage point in the town for this instrument and thanks are due to The Reliance Insurance Society, Ltd., for permission to use their premises for this purpose.

Members of the Health Department act as Observers and the work was carried out on a rota system by Mr. T. Ellison, Mr. W. P. S. Rae and Mr. R. Welch.

Sunshine.

The year's sunshine of 1,509.7 hours was just over 100 hours below the average of 1,611.8 hours. As will be seen from the tables the spring months March to May were quite sunny, particularly March and May, which were 29% and 20% respectively above average. On three days in March

sunshine amounts reached ten hours and there were only four days without sun. May with 253.3 hours was by far the sunniest month of the year and the sunniest May since 1944. Sunshine was recorded every day—exceeding double figures on 13 days, the greatest amount being 13.3 hours on the 15th—and was the only month to exceed 200 hours. The summer months June to September were all below average. The June total of 139.9 hours was the poorest since 1923: despite sun every day in August the total was 11% below average reaching double figures on only three days: October and November were fairly average, but December with 13.0 hours was the lowest on record.

The sunniest days of the year were 5th June and 25th July, each with 14.5 hours of sunshine.

Sunless days during the year numbered 74 against an average of 65.

Precipitation.

The total rainfall of 30.72 inches was barely above the average of 30.46 inches—the particularly wet months being evened up over the year by the exceptionally dry periods.

Following a very wet January with 22 rain days giving a total of 5.31 inches—91% above normal and the wettest since 1943—came four dry months when rainfall was just under half of average. May, with .48 inches was the driest since 1936 when only .16 inches was recorded. These four dry months were followed by four exceptionally wet months. The total for these four months was 13.81 inches, as compared with the average total rainfall for the four months of 8.99 inches. October's total of 1.79 inches was below the average of 3.47 inches, whilst November with .94 inches was the second driest on record, the driest being in 1945, when only .45 inches was recorded. A monthly total exceeding five inches was recorded for the second time during the year with 5.07 inches in December which was the wettest for 22 years.

There were few long dry periods, the longest without

measurable falls being 16 days from 4th to 19th March, and 12 days from 12th to 23rd May.

Hail was recorded twice during the year. It fell during a thunderstorm on the 10th January and again in a phenomenal fall on the 6th August (Bank Holiday Monday). A thunderstorm commenced about 11.30 a.m. and continued until 5.0 p.m. and hail began to fall a little before noon and continued with unabated intensity for about an hour. Undrifted hail measured 2 inches and there were drifts up to 4 feet. Some roads, particularly in the Pantiles area, required the use of bulldozers and mechanical shovels to clear a passage for traffic. A cellar of a public house was filled with frozen hail to a depth of 6 feet and much damage was caused by flooding due to the hail choking drains, whilst severe damage was caused to crops. The total precipitation amounted to 1.35 inches all of which fell between 10.0 a.m. and 2.0 p.m.

Snow and sleet occurred on four days in January—on the 8th and 9th, 23rd and again on the 31st. On this day a cold wave from the continent initiated a long wintry spell. February had 17 days of snow with falls on the 1st and 2nd laying to a depth of three and a half inches by the morning of the 3rd. Fresh falls commenced on the 9th and, except for the 19th, continued until the 23rd. By the morning of the 11th it lay five inches deep. Another light fall came on the 27th. Slight snow fell on the 15th March and again on the 6th April. In the latter part of the year snow fell on the night of the 25th December and lay one and a half inches deep by the morning with further snow and sleet on the 26th.

The wettest day of the year was the 19th July with 1.43 inches. Rain days numbered 162, against an average of 168.

Temperatures.

Mean temperature throughout the year was well below average being 47.6°F. as against 49.2°F. The particularly cold months were as follows: February was the second coldest this century with a mean temperature ten degrees below

average of only 28.8 degrees; April, with a mean temperature of 42.9 degrees, was appreciably below average and the coldest since 1908; June, with 55.2 degrees, was the coldest since 1923 and August with 57.0 degrees since 1920. The mean minimum temperature for the year of 40.3°F. was the lowest for 16 years.

The mean daily range of temperature was 14.6 degrees, the average being 14.3 degrees.

Temperatures dropped rapidly on 31st January with the penetration of the cold front from the continent and the maximum was only 34°F. and only 22°F. on the following day, the 1st February. On a further 11 days during February the temperature did not rise above freezing point. The minimum temperatures during the year occurred on the 4th and 21st February when the air temperature dropped to 9°F. and the lowest grass minimum was 13°F. on the 3rd February.

The last air and ground frosts in the spring occurred on the 30th April and the first frosts of the autumn on the 26th October. In late November came a few sharp air frosts with the temperature dropping to 18°F. on the 23rd. Ground frosts during the year numbered 91.

Temperatures below ground at the one foot and four feet levels were consistently below average, only May, September and December being slightly above average at the one foot level and December alone at the four feet level.

The highest temperature of the year was 83°F. and this was reached on the 26th and 27th of July.

The hottest night of the year was the 9th July when the temperature did not fall below 61°F.

Wind.

The wind direction at the 9.0 a.m. observation hour was North on 53 days, North-east on 50 days, East 29 days, South-east 24 days, South 36 days, South-west 72 days, West 53 days and North-west 47 days. Calm conditions were recorded on 25th April and 20th September.

Only one gale was recorded during the year and this occurred on the 29th July when rain and very high winds caused extensive damage and many trees in full leaf were uprooted.

General.

The mean amount of cloud at the observation hour was 5.7 oktas, or eighths of the sky covered with cloud, against an average of 5.4 oktas.

Fog (visibility below 1,100 yards) was noted on 42 days at 9.0 a.m. and it was misty (visibility between 1,100 and 2,200 yards) on 44 other mornings.

Thunder was heard on 16 days. Many of the storms were accompanied by heavy rain, the most notable being the night of the 11th June when .69 inches was recorded; the night of 8th July with .80 inches; the 19th July which was thundery on and off all day culminating in a heavy storm at night when 1.43 inches of rain fell; and the previously mentioned storm on 6th August.

Relative humidity for the year was 82% at the morning reading.

The lowest barometer reading was 28.861 on the 10th January and the highest, 30.734, on the 3rd February.

METEOROLOGICAL NOTES 1956.

Month.	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature. In shade 4 feet above ground.		Temperature Underground.			
	Sunshine.		Rainfall.		Mean Temperature.		One Foot.		Four Feet.	
	1956.	41 year average.	1956.	76 year average.	1956.	66 year average.	1956.	56 year average.	1956.	42 year average.
January ...	Hrs. 61 Mins. 18	Hrs. 53 Mins. 6	Inches. 5.31	Inches. 2.78	°F. 38.0	°F. 38.1	°F. 37.7	°F. 39.1	°F. 41.9	°F. 43.0
February ...	62 54	71 30	1.00	2.28	28.8	38.6	35.0	38.7	39.9	41.8
March ...	160 48	124 48	1.08	2.22	43.1	42.1	40.8	41.7	40.8	42.7
April ...	160 48	158 42	1.24	1.95	42.9	46.8	45.7	47.3	45.6	46.7
May ...	253 18	211 54	0.48	1.97	53.7	53.0	54.7	54.6	51.4	51.5
June ...	139 54	217 42	2.72	1.94	55.2	58.1	58.0	60.8	55.5	56.9
July ...	179 0	209 6	3.45	2.29	61.3	61.6	63.4	63.7	59.6	60.4
August ...	173 0	193 54	3.89	2.45	57.0	61.2	60.1	63.3	59.8	61.6
September ...	126 12	150 24	3.75	2.31	58.8	57.2	59.4	59.2	58.6	60.1
October ...	111 48	110 36	1.79	3.47	48.9	50.2	51.9	52.4	55.2	55.9
November ...	67 42	62 42	0.94	3.54	41.5	43.4	43.7	45.6	48.6	50.1
December ...	13 0	47 24	5.07	3.26	42.0	39.8	42.8	41.3	45.6	45.5
	1509 42	1611 48	30.72	30.46	47.6	49.2	49.4	50.6	50.2	51.4

